Objectives

• Define and describe the importance of the nurse aide using critical thinking skills while performing resident care
• Discuss the importance of critical thinking
• Discuss five questions that nurse aides should ask in order to think critically

Critical Thinking

Exercising or involving careful judgment based on facts and observations
• Required to provide safe, competent care to residents in a variety of situations
• Developed through real-life experiences, education, communication, observation and practical application
• Incorporated into thought processes and daily activities
Critical Thinking - Importance

- Allows the nurse aide to put theory into practice when caring for the resident
- Allows the nurse aide to administer care in a safe confident manner
- Requires the use of sound judgment in a variety of situations
- Helps the nurse aide identify situations that deviate from the norm

Critical Thinking – Questions to ask

- What problem do I need to solve?
  - Who should be involved in the process?
- What information do I need?
  - How do I determine it is accurate?
- How do I solve the problem?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- What am I missing?

Critical Thinking - Quote

“Critical thinking is important because it is what makes us adaptable, enables us to act independently, and allows us to move beyond what we already know or guess.”